

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

SS - 41

APRIL 16, 1946

LAND VALUES 71 PERCENT ABOVE PREWAR

Farm real estate values over the whole country rose 13 percent during year ending March 1, 7 percent during November-February. Average values now up 71 percent above 1935-39 average—an increase about equal to the 70 percent rise in the 1912-1920 period. Index of average value March 1 was 142 (1912-14=100), this level being somewhat above 1919 and getting close to the 1920 inflation peak. Farms in the Midwest have roughly doubled in value since before this war and have more than doubled in several other sections.

FARMS GETTING LARGER

Number of farms in the United States shown (preliminary) by 1945 Farm Census 6,011,000 compared with 6,097,000 farms in 1940. Size of average farm grew nearly one-tenth in the five years, from 174 acres in 1940 to slightly above 190 acres in 1945. With about 86,000 fewer farms, there are nearly 82 million more acres in farms.

WHEAT EXPORTS FIRST QUARTER

Wheat and flour equivalent exported from United States in first quarter of 1946 totaled 2,687,000 long tons (export goal 3 million tons). Largest shipments were for UNRRA countries with total of 1,113,000 tons. Other shipments were to British Empire 281,100 tons, France and F. North Africa 629,500, Belgium 65,800, Netherlands 40,700, Portugal 55,100, Spain 44,300, Mexico 63,200, Brazil 110,200, Cuba 41,800, Philippines 60,200, U. S. occupation zones 211,400, miscellaneous (mainly flour) 110,700 tons.

MEAT ALLOCATION, APRIL - JUNE

Total allocable supply of meat for April-June quarter 5,360 million pounds, carcass weight, or about 9 percent less than January-March quantity. April-June meat has been allocated: U.S. civilians 4,558 million pounds (85 percent), U. S. military 314 million (6 percent), foreign shipments and U. S. territories 488 million pounds (9 percent).

Civilian supply this quarter will be around 132 pounds per capita, annual rate basis. This compares with about 147 pounds in January-March period and 116 pounds for second quarter a year ago. There will be about the same total amounts of beef and veal as in first quarter but less pork, lamb and mutton.

Allocations for foreign shipment in second quarter

(453 million pounds) include Belgium 61 million pounds, France 65 million, Netherlands East Indies 28 million, countries supplied by UNRRA 200 million, and commercial outlets 28 million pounds.

Total meat production for 1946 now estimated 22,568 million pounds or slightly above the 1945 figure of 22,527 million pounds.

17 PERCENT FEWER CATTLE ON FEED

Number of cattle on feed in Corn Belt April 1 down sharply this year, 17 percent under year ago, decrease equivalent to about 350,000 head. Sharpest decrease in Western Corn Belt, 20 percent. Kansas showed 32 percent fewer. Eastern Belt down 7 percent, result of decrease in Illinois (13 percent).

On January 1 Corn Belt had only 5 percent fewer cattle on feed than year previous but Marketings in January-March have been heavier than planned. Feeders now have in lots 13 percent fewer than their January reports forecast.

Corn supply on feeder farms above last year in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan but less in all other States. Western Corn Belt feeders have only about three-fourths as much corn as year ago.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into Corn Belt during first quarter this year 5 percent less than last year and second smallest in 6 years. Average cost highest on record for like period, \$13.95 compared with \$12.70 in same period of 1945.

HEAVY EGG PRODUCTION

Farm flocks laid 6.7 billion eggs in March, 2 percent above year ago and 34 percent above March average 1935-44 (but 2 percent under record high March 1944). Increase over last year result of 2 percent more eggs

per hen, number of hens being about the same. Egg production per hen 16.9 eggs, a record for March, compares with 16.6 year ago and 14.8 average.

Average number of layers in March 396 million, about like year ago but 18 percent above average.

Number of chicks and young chickens of this year's hatch April 1 was 216 million, 6 percent above last year, 35 percent above average—indicates early hatching season. But hatchery men report reduced orders for chicks during April and May, indicating much lighter final hatch this year than last. April and May deliveries 25 percent under year ago.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	FEB. 15 1946	MAR. 15 1946	MAR. 15 1946
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.55	1.58	1.58
Corn, bu. dol.	1.11	1.14	1.15
Peanuts, lb. ct.	8.43	8.63	8.59
Cotton, lb. ct.	23.01	22.70	22.20
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.46	1.57	1.30
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.20	14.20	13.00
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.60	13.10	9.70
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.90	14.10	12.10
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	13.30	13.60	10.50
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.8	51.2	¹ 47.8
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.34	3.29	¹ 2.86
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	23.1	23.3	20.4
Eggs, doz. ct.	32.6	32.1	¹ 32.7

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

MILK OUTPUT FALLING SLIGHTLY

Milk production in the United States for March estimated 9.8 billion pounds, compared with 10 billion previous March and 8.8 billion, the March average for 1935-44. Record production per cow could not offset fewer cows, leaving March output 2 percent lower this year than last. Production of milk per cow April 1 averaged 15.56 pounds in herds of reporters, record high for that date—explained by heavy feeding, early pastures and mild weather. Production per cow April 1 was 2 percent above year ago and 10 percent above average.

Grain and concentrates being fed to cows of reporters April 1 averaged 5.48 pounds, compared with 5.54 pounds year ago and 5.45 pounds two years ago. Value of concentrates fed to milk cows, in market milk areas, during March was \$2.80 per cwt., 11 cents above year ago.

COWS HEAVILY FED

Milk cows in 1945 were fed 19 million tons of concentrate feeds, 6 percent more than was fed in 1944. Year's total fed per cow 1,503 pounds, largest amount on record. About 31 pounds of concentrate ration fed for each 100 pounds of milk. Average value of ration \$2.57 per cwt., more than double pre-war average 1938-40. Total value of these feeds roughly one billion dollars. Of the 17 million tons fed on farms selling milk or cream, 5 million tons were corn, small grains 4 1/2 million, major high protein supplements 1 1/4 million, commercial mixed dairy feeds 4 1/2 million, other concentrates 1 1/2 million tons.

FARM GRAIN STOCKS DOWN, EXCEPT OATS

Stocks of corn for grain on farms April 1, were 1,072 million bushels, compared with 1,325 million year ago and 1,011 mil. for the 10-year average 1935-44. Stocks of wheat on farms 204 million bushels, compared with 238 million year ago and 173 million average. Stocks of oats 578 million bushels, compared with 426 million year ago and 401 million average. Barley stocks 70 million bushels, compared with 85 million year ago and 107 million average. Rye stocks 3.3 million bushels, compared with 6.6 million year ago and 16.7 mil. average. Soybean stocks 29.8 million bushels, compared with 27.6 million last year, 40 million in 1944 and 54 million in 1943, which is first comparable date available.

HIRED HELP STILL SCARCE

Number of farm workers April 1 totaled 9,121,000, compared with 8,982,000 year ago. Number of family workers 7,469,000, compared with 7,322,000 year ago. Number of hired workers 1,652,000, compared with 1,660,000 year ago. Average wage paid to farm hired help April 1 was

\$4.36 per day without board, compared with \$4.12 year ago. The annual average wage 1935-39 (not the April 1 figure) was \$1.50 per day without board and compared with \$1.42 per day annual average 1910-14.

Number of World War II veterans placed on farms under the farm labor program during February 5,388, of whom 3,544 went to work as hired hands and 1,844 as tenants or sharecroppers.

HALF THE FAMILIES HAVE GARDENS

Forty-nine percent of American households had home gardens last year; 83 percent of all farm households had gardens; 41 percent of non-farm households had gardens. Bulk of farm gardens were 1,200 to 30,000 square feet in size. Bulk of non-farm gardens were 150 to 5,000 square feet. Vegetables most widely grown: tomatoes (90 percent), string beans, onions, lettuce, radishes, beets, cabbage, peas. Households planning for garden in 1946—farms 91 percent, non-farms 43 percent.

FARM INCOME

Total receipts to farmers from products sold during January 1,651 million dollars, compared with 1,658 million year previous. Figures include 114 million dollars of Government payments this January and 87 million year ago. Total receipts for the year 1945 were 21,468 million dollars, compared with 21,038 million in 1944. The 1945 figure included 769 million dollars of Government payments compared with 810 million Government payments in 1944.

MARKETING CHARGES

Charges for marketing a family basket of farm food products \$226 in January compared with \$225 in December.

Charges included Government subsidy to marketing agencies amounting to about \$16 each month. Farm value of the market basket \$256 in January, compared with \$257 in December. Retail cost to consumers \$467 in January, compared with \$466 in December.

Farmers' share of consumers' dollar stood at 55 cents in each month November through January. Prior months it had been at 53 or 54 cents.

MORE WOOL ON HAND

At beginning of 1946, stocks of domestic and foreign apparel wool for commercial use in U.S. were 797 million pounds, grease basis, about 50 million pounds above year previous.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.—or telephone Republic 4142—Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	MAR. 1946
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	209
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	179
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	117
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	170
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	188
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	¹ 347
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 369
RATIOS	LONG-TIME MAR. - AVERAGE	MAR. 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	13.0	12.5
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	24.4	28.4
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.24	1.41
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	10.4	10.5
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-DEC. 1944	JAN.-DEC. 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	119	123.3
Eggs, (Bil.)	57.9	55.2
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	6,655	7,240
Lamb Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	887	913
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	12,698	8,189
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	21,166	17,165

¹December figure.

²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. December figure.